

**Derrylyn Gorski  
First Selectman  
Town of Bethany  
Public Hearing Testimony  
Before the Labor Committee  
February 27, 2014**

**Re: SB-219 – An Act Concerning the Municipal Employees Retirement System**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB-219 which will increase the employee contribution rate to ensure on the need to provide towns with mandate relief.

Because the employee contribution rate under the Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS) is mandated by statute, the town's share of pension costs has increased significantly. In FY06, the MERS employer contribution was 6.75%. However, in FY13, the MERS employer contribution rate will be 12%, costing the Town of Bethany an additional \$20,000 per year.

This is putting enormous pressure on our local budget.

The employee contribution rate, which has never been increased, should be adjusted to provider a fairer structure for funding the employee retirement system.

**Please support SB-219 to assist towns in funding pension costs.**

Thank you.